United Nations ECE/MP.PP/2014/26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Fifth session

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Second session

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2 July 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the Joint High-level Segment

Annotated provisional agenda for the Joint High-level Segment

To be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 2 July 2014, starting at 10 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Joint High-level Segment.
2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties.
3. Thematic session.
4. Maastricht Declaration.
5. Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth session.
6. Closure of the Joint High-level Segment.

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II. Introduction

1. The fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP-5) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Aarhus Convention (MOPP-2) will be held from 30 June to 4 July 2014, with a Joint High-level Segment on 2 July. The events will take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands.

2. The High-level Segment will target high-level officials, including ministers, vice-ministers, State secretaries, other heads of delegations and special guests, and its thematic session will be dedicated to the themes to be addressed in the Maastricht Declaration (see the draft Declaration ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.1).[1]

3. The High-level Segment will be chaired by a high-level official of the host country and will have the format of a panel discussion involving ministers, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders with strong expertise in the theme of the session, followed by a general debate. The discussion will be facilitated by a moderator. The substantive focus of the High-level Segment will be based on the themes of the draft Maastricht Declaration. The session is expected, among others, to provide input to the work on the future sustainable development agenda following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20 Conference) and setting and implementing relevant Millennium Development or future Sustainable Development Goals. A provisional programme for thematic session (AC/MOP-5/Inf.1–PRTR/MOPP-2/Inf.1) will provide further details on the themes and speakers.[2]

III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Joint High-level Segment

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 10 a.m.

4. The Joint High-level Segment will begin with a welcome address by a high-level official from the host country and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

5. The Parties meeting at the Joint High-level Segment are expected to adopt the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional annotated agenda for the Joint High-level Segment (ECE/MP.PP/2014/26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/1)

[1] Documents for MOP-5, MOPP-2 and the Joint High-level Segment will be available from a dedicated web page (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhusmop5&prtrmopp2/main.html) as soon as they become available.

[2] A programme for the thematic session will be made available on the dedicated web page for the sessions.

2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 10.30 a.m.

6. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs will be invited to approve the report on the credentials, presented by the officers in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/1, annex).

3. Thematic session

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 10.35 a.m.

7. The thematic session will consist of two panels each with a different topic. The first panel will discuss the issue of the right to information and environmental democracy and the second will consider the issue of the right to information and social media. The discussions will be facilitated by a moderator.

Documentation

Draft Maastricht Declaration (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.1)

Provisional programme for the Joint High-level Segment (AC/MOP-5/Inf.1–PRTR/MOPP-2/Inf.1)

4. Maastricht Declaration

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 3 p.m.

8. Ministers and heads of delegation of Parties, Signatories and other States, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society will be invited to consider and adopt a declaration.

Documentation

Draft Maastricht Declaration (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.1)

5. Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 4.10 p.m.

9. The Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention will be invited to review the draft decisions agreed at its fifth session and to officially adopt them.

6. Closure of the Joint High-level Segment

Timing: Wednesday, 2 July, 4.55 p.m.

10. The Chair of the Joint High-level Segment will close the meeting.

IV. Organization of work

11. The envisaged allocation of time for MOP-5, the Joint High-level Segment, MOPP-2 and the associated meetings is set out in the table below.

Date	*Convention/Protocol body*
Sunday, 29 June	
9–11 a.m.	Convention Bureau
10 a.m.–6 p.m. (as needed)	Convention Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with MOP-5, as required)
12–4 p.m.	Working Group of the Parties to the Convention[a]
Monday, 30 June	
10 a.m.–6 p.m.	MOP-5
Tuesday, 1 July	
10 a.m.–6 p.m.	MOP-5 and Protocol Bureau
Wednesday, 2 July	
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Joint High-level Segment under MOP-5 and MOPP-2
Thursday, 3 July	
10 a.m.–6 p.m.	MOPP-2 and Protocol Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with MOPP-2, as required)
Friday, 4 July	
10 a.m.–4 p.m.	MOPP-2

[a] Late afternoon/evening is reserved for the finalization, translation and photocopying of possible revised documents, as well as for possible coordination meetings.

12. Side events can take place outside the working hours of the formal sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (during lunch breaks, and before or after MOP-5 and MOPP-2). A registration form and more detailed time allocation for side events will be made available in due course through the following website: www.aarhusmaastricht.org.

13. The envisaged detailed allocation of time for the Joint High-level Segment is set out in the table below.

Date and time	*Item*	
Wednesday, 2 July		
10–10:30 a.m.	1.	Opening ceremony of the Joint High-level Segment.
10:30–10:35 a.m.	2.	Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties.

Date and time	*Item*	
10:35–11:30 a.m.	3.	Thematic session — Panel 1.
11:30–11:50 a.m.		**Coffee break**
11:50 a.m.–1 p.m.	3.	Thematic session — Panel 2.
1–3 p.m.		**Lunch**
3–4:10 p.m.	4.	Maastricht Declaration.
4:10–4:55 p.m.	5.	Decisions of MOP-5.
4:55–5 p.m.	6.	Closure of the Joint High-level Segment (a farewell reception with formal presentation of the Maastricht Declaration and a group photo is foreseen after the closure of the meeting).